

Saturday, January Thirtieth, 1915.

Jim Corbett Says

Tom Cowler, English White Hope, Is Fast;
Should Beat Best Heavies Within a Year

Corbett Has Adopted Cowler as His Proteege; Will Teach Him All the Finer Points of the Boxing Game, Fight Him Against the Best Men in Australia, and Then Put Him in Ring in United States.

By James
J. Corbett
Former Heavyweight Champion
of the World.Federals Have Sought to Create Sympathy by Attacking
Acts of Charles Murphy, Ousted by Organized Baseball; Byrne, of the Phillies, May Jump to the
Feds, or May Be Merely Holding Out.

BY SAM CRANE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—I have seen a Federal league contract signed by a certain old star player and president Gibbons, in which the spirit of the reserve rule that the Federal league claimed worked so much injustice and hardship to the players, and which is being made a concrete issue in the mid-west being tried in Chicago, was a printed clause.

The Federal league attorneys are apparently taking all the advantage they can of certain moves made by Charles Murphy in his treatment of several of his old players, and have evidently gained a certain amount of sympathy if not a vote by so doing. It is well that the National league took drastic methods to squelch the afore-said Murphy, and severed all connections with him as fast as was in their power. As it is he will gain more memorable renown than he already has.

Honors for Pat Moran. Pat Moran, who was recently appointed manager of the Phillies, is already a hero in his native city of Pittsburg, Mass., where he was presented with a chest of silver made by his many enthusiastic friends and fellow-citizens. He was the recipient of many congratulatory telegrams from Philadelphia and New York, among which was a characteristic message from "Red" Broad, who would not turn down an offer as a trainer of the Phillies.

In Philadelphia much is expected of Moran as a manager by those who know him best—and I am one of them—who think there is more real ability as a manager in the make-up of the quiet, retiring and wise old Irishman than he is generally credited with. Pat has been a success as chief assistant to Charles Doolin, and he has the confidence of the players he has been associated with.

The Phillies have been torn up more than any other big league club, but they will have a staff of excellent pitchers, a splendid outfield, and taken as a whole, the team is not to be despised by any means.

Byrne May Take Hurdle. Bobby Byrne, of the Phillies, has been quoted as being inclined to jump to the Federals and saying that "other players have taken the chance and why not he?" If he can be led by the nose

like that, I cannot conceive that he would be any too valuable to any club. He surely did not give any evidence as being such a Pirate last season. On the contrary, he appeared to be a "going back" or to have lost his nerve. Possibly Koney is one of that class of players who can play like a house afire if he is with a losing team, and he did when with the Cardinals, but when the same player is with a club that much is expected of as was the case with the Pirates, he wakens.

There are any number of players who ignite the proverbial river when in a minor league, but who in big league "class" are not worth their salt. Is that showing the yellow streak, or what is it?

Williams to Train Early. At Williams, the ex-Portland college player and pitcher, will go to Marlin, Tex., early and get into shape a week or so ahead of the other Giants. He had not much chance to show what he could do last season, as he was shifted to the losing Jersey City club but his work after the season closed with sent-pro teams showed him as a very likely possibility to make the regular team of the Giants this year.

LUDLUM WINS SHOOTING HANDICAP. Houston, Texas, Jan. 28.—Shooting in a cold drizzle, A. R. Ludlum, of Raymondville, Tex., won the shooting handicap, by a score of 12 to 10, in the 12 year trap, tying the lowest score in the 12 year trap. The handicap has been won by a score of 12 to 10, in the 12 year trap.

BOSTON NATIONALS GIVE DEVORE HIS RELEASE. Boston, Mass., Jan. 28.—"Job" Devore was given an unconditional release by the Boston Nationals today. It is said to allow him to sell his services in the best market was given as the reason for the release of the little outfielder.

Billy Evans's Puzzle Plays

Written Especially For This Paper by the Famous American League Umpire.

THE two major leagues differ in their interpretation of several rules. This to be expected because it is confusing. Fans in major league cities which have representations in both the American and National League often see umpires rendering directly opposite rulings on plays which to them seem very similar. Such a play evidently happened last year from the following letter I recently received. I will quote the part bearing on the play which I am going to discuss.

Last summer I saw two plays which to me seemed exactly alike, yet a different runner was called out in each case. The play came up with one man out, not a runner on first base. As I understand it, the infield fly does not apply here. In the National league game the batter sent up a fly to the second baseman. The runner of course held his base, while the batter ran out the hit. The second baseman caught the ball squarely in his hands, then purposely pulled them apart, allowing the ball to drop to the ground. He then picked it up and threw it to the shortstop, who covered second base. Since the batter ran out the hit, there was, of course, no chance for a double play.

The umpire who was in charge declared out the runner originally on first base, ruling that he had been forced at second base on the hit. A few weeks later I saw exactly the same play come up in the American

league. The second baseman, after getting the ball squarely in his hands, opened them up and allowed the ball to drop to the ground, then, picking it up, he threw to the shortstop, who covered second. The American league umpire ruled the batter out and allowed the original holder of first base to retain possession of that base. Why should there be such difference in the rulings on exactly the same play?

The Difference in Ruling. I will try briefly to make clear this wide difference in ruling. The infield fly rule was made for the protection of base runner. Its intent is to keep players from making double plays, as is possible with runners on first and second, or first, second and third. Players had the habit of purposely dropping the ball to bring about such plays. The calling of the batsman out did away with such schemes. Since the infield fly rule does not apply with runners on first, infielders began purposely dropping balls when they saw the batter was not running out his hit, and were often successful in making double plays. They began recently working the play in an other direction, as several National league managers have admitted to me. For instance, say the runner on first base is a very fast man, while the batter is just an ordinary base runner. In case the batter pops up an infield fly, the logical thing for the fielder to do under the circumstances is purposely to

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—Well, here is the story of my "white hope"—as much as I know about him. His name is Tom Cowler, and he is an Englishman by birth, stands 6 foot 2 1/2 inches in his heels, and weighs in the neighborhood of 220 pounds. I am not writing this as an advertisement, but in response to numerous inquiries made by sporting writers and fans throughout the country since it was announced recently that I had taken a man under my wing for development. Therefore, anything I have to say about him here I trust will be taken by my readers in the spirit I am writing it—as matter of news and not an attempt to obtain some free advertising for my boxer. If he develops into the man I confidently hope and predict his record will speak for itself and there will be no other boasting necessary.

I first met Cowler a month ago, when he called on me at the stage door of Pantages theater in Portland, Oregon. He asked me if I would look him over as he wanted to learn more about boxing and believed I could teach him. His manner of talking and his actions impressed me favorably, and it is no new matter for me to talk with aspiring heavies, believe me, I have met them by the score since Jeffries' defeat of Johnson, of all shapes and sizes, weights and personalities. One or two of the more prominent of those before the public asked me, "What do you think of this fellow?" and I have given them a good answer. I have given them a good answer. I have given them a good answer.

Cowler has been boxing for two years in England and Canada. In fact, he has boxed with such men as Bombarier, Frank Moran, in Hague, George Roddel, Denver Ed Martin and others of more or less notoriety. Cowler boxed the Bombarier, when a raw beginner, an eight round no-decision exhibition. He lost to Frank Moran in seven rounds on a foul. He knocked out Roddel in two rounds. So my readers will appreciate that he is not exactly a raw recruit that I have taken under my wing.

His Workout Was Good. I took Cowler to a gymnasium in Portland and gave him a try out. In spite of what those who may imagine I am name as a boxer may say or think, it was a good workout. And this youngster, although very crude in the matter of boxing, made a hit with all those present by his actions, and style, and willingness and quickness to learn. I lost no time signing a contract to take him with me on my Australian trip next month.

Nearly Stopped Peterson. In San Francisco last week I arranged to give Cowler a good workout for the benefit of the newspaper writers and my old friend at the Olympic Club—an organization by the way that has been in existence for many years in the past quarter of a century. Cowler's opponent in a three round bout on that occasion was Eddie Peterson, a young heavyweight who is being groomed for the ring by George Green, the original "Young Corbett," and a famous trainer of twenty years ago. Cowler toyed with Peterson and would unquestionably have stopped Green's fighter away in the first round if it were not for the fact that Peterson fought almost entirely on the defensive, and at covering up. It is a hard, but read what one of the Price newspaper experts has to say about Cowler and the bout with Peterson. This is from the Chronicle and one of

drop the fly ball and then make the play at second. This enables him to get the fast runner off first base, getting on, instead, the batsman, a player much slower on foot.

Johnson Doesn't Like It. President Johnson of the American league has never liked this play. In order to thwart such a happening, his instructions to his umpires are, that when a fielder puts the ball in his hands and then purposely opens them up and allows the ball to drop to the ground, the batter should be called out on the grounds that the fielder has held the ball long enough to constitute a catch. Mr. Johnson does not object to the force play if the fielder is purposely dropping the ball to trap the ball, but he does object to the dropping of the fly ball, when it is apparent to everybody that the fielder has purposely dropped the ball after having it securely in his hands. Under the American league ruling, it is impossible to discipline a slow man unless the fielder is given enough to take a chance on trapping the ball. Mr. Johnson's objection to such a play should be rewarded, but not the intentional muff. That is why two big leagues rule differently on the same play. Copyright, 1915, by the Wheeler Syndicate, Inc.

the most conservative stories written of the try out. "Cowler is even, of course, but there are more points in his favor. Taking the milling over yesterday purely on its merits and Cowler would have been returned the victor, as he left a decisive mark on Peterson's right eye and had the local man staggering around the ring with none too clear an idea of what was happening.

Cowler is remarkably fast on his feet for so big a man, and shapes up like a boxer. He is fast with his punches, and evidently carries a good one, although he must needs learn some of the finer points in delivering it with better effect. Peterson covered up considerably, but he was not a bad fighter. He was not a bad fighter. He was not a bad fighter.

With Fight in Australia. I leave for Australia on a vaudeville trip next month. I am taking Cowler with me as it will give me a great opportunity to work with him regularly. I have given him a good workout. I have given him a good workout.

Cowler Has Fair Record. Cowler is a raw recruit, as he has been fighting about two years in England and Canada. In fact, he has boxed with such men as Bombarier, Frank Moran, in Hague, George Roddel, Denver Ed Martin and others of more or less notoriety. Cowler boxed the Bombarier, when a raw beginner, an eight round no-decision exhibition. He lost to Frank Moran in seven rounds on a foul. He knocked out Roddel in two rounds. So my readers will appreciate that he is not exactly a raw recruit that I have taken under my wing.

He is a hard, natural hitter. I believe he is one of the hardest natural hitters I have ever met up with. He is a hard, natural hitter. I believe he is one of the hardest natural hitters I have ever met up with. He is a hard, natural hitter.

Beall Team Beats Aoy in Senior Soccer League. Friday afternoon Beall defeated Aoy team in the Senior Soccer league, which is playing for the El Paso Herald championship banner. Beall scored four goals and did not permit Aoy to score at all. The high wind which came up Friday afternoon played a prominent part in the result. In the first half the wind was in Aoy's favor, and although it did not score kept the ball in Beall's territory throughout the half. In the second half the wind increased.

Half the time the Aoy backfield was unable to see the ball, and the experts I believe there would be few who would vote against awarding Mike Gibbons the title of middleweight champion. Of course some would dissent, but very small minority, and even they would have to admit that the St. Paul man appears to be better equipped to take up the middleweight championship than poor Stanley Ketchel left off by his untimely death.

In the bout with Jimmy Clabby, previously regarded by many good judges as the best man in the division, Gibbons proved he is in a class by himself. While only two men who will have to take his medicine be-

fore Mike can be proclaimed champion, the St. Paul man would enter the ring tomorrow a pronounced favorite over any man in the middleweight division. Some maintain that Al McCoy is the rightful champion, that he won the title by stopping George Chipps, but those who do so would have a hard time proving just how Chip ever came into possession of the honors. He beat Frank Klaus and the latter beat Billy Papke, in Hague, I think. On that basis the Klaus claim was based, but as a matter of fact Billy Papke did not hold the title at that time. Only once during his career Papke was recognized as champion—when he stopped Ketchel in 12 rounds at Los Angeles. But Stanley, like the great fighter he was, had won it back in decisive style. If Papke succeeded Ketchel, then Thompson, who had better title to the championship than Klaus as they had all earned decisions over the Filipina "thunderbolt" before Frank had his chance. The truth of the matter is that Papke was finished as a fighter of the first class before Frank Klaus met him.

However, if Al McCoy wants any of Gibbons' game I imagine the St. Paul man would have no objection to giving the Brooklynite another boxing lesson. Mike and Al met about a year ago and Gibbons did everything but knock his man out.

McGowry Has Good Claim. Eddie McGowry probably has a better claim on Gibbons than any of the others. Mike and Eddie boxed several years ago, and while it was an awful affair considering the reputation of the men, McGowry's honor there was rated with the Goshawk man on his aggressiveness according to the critics.

Boosting King as Champion. Over in Australia they are boosting a newcomer named Mike King. King recently was awarded a close decision over Jeff Smith, and as the same referee had previously given Smith a victory over Clabby, they are claiming the world's title for King. But according to comments by Australian writers I suspect the referee was a little off his head when he gave the victory just as he had previously done by picking Smith as the winner over Clabby. Jeff Smith was the best of the bunch in this country. I am inclined to take the critics' and of the argument.

To my mind Gibbons comes closer to the ideal champion than any of his rivals. I do not think there is a man anywhere near his weight who can beat him over any distance from six rounds up. If he meets McGowry next month, as has been announced, I look for him to score even an easier victory over the challenger. Gibbons impresses me as the best middleweight since the days of Tommy Ryan and Ryan I always regarded as the best of his weight in the history of the ring.

BEALL TEAM BEATS AOY IN SENIOR SOCCER LEAGUE

Friday afternoon Beall defeated Aoy team in the Senior Soccer league, which is playing for the El Paso Herald championship banner. Beall scored four goals and did not permit Aoy to score at all. The high wind which came up Friday afternoon played a prominent part in the result. In the first half the wind was in Aoy's favor, and although it did not score kept the ball in Beall's territory throughout the half. In the second half the wind increased.

HEAVIEST SNOWFALL IN 15 YEARS THROUGHOUT NORWAY

Christiania, Norway, Jan. 28.—The snow fall in Norway this year is the heaviest in 15 years, and has caused considerable damage to breaking down trees and telephone and telegraph wires and poles. The temperature has been only a few degrees below freezing, and the snow has afforded the sport.

The king, queen and crown prince have gone to their cottage in the hills near Christiania to enjoy skiing, at which they are all experts. A number of English officers are in the winter resort in the mountains recuperating from wounds. Skiing has brought a number of tourists to Norway, although not many compared with past years.

GIBBONS WANTS 20 ROUND BOUT; WOULD FIGHT CLABBY OR KETCHEL

Inasmuch as Most Sporting Writers Recognize Clabby as American Middleweight Champion, Gibbons Feels He Has Chance of His Life to Take Away Honors; Recent Fight Gave Him Confidence.

By T. S. ANDREWS.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 29.—There are many anxieties to the middleweight question just now, and many claimants to the title. For the past six months most writers of boxing have recognized Jimmy Clabby as American champion, "newcomer's" champion, and as such he has been ready at any time to defend the same against all comers over the short or marauder routes. The Australian title is held by Mick King, a newcomer to the tails over there, although reports at hand say that Jeff Smith won on the decision over King. However, the title would still rest with King, according to the Australian boxing law. Stone House, Johnny Sumatra, the British welterweight champion, was in Australia and lost to Tom McCormick, also of England, the latter claiming the title, but it was not recognized in England because he had not defeated Summers there.

In order to get the title and belt, McCormick would have to win over Summers before the National Sporting club of London. It happens, too, that Matt Wolfe beat Summers, but he will have to win over him in England to get the London championship belt. When Clabby was in Australia the last time he lost a point decision to Jeff Smith. There was some dispute over the verdict at the time, but that matters little for the decision was given and it stands. However, there was really no recognized champion of America at the time. Clabby, Smith, Dillon, McGowry, Chip, McCoy and Ahearn all claimed the title.

Claims of Klaus. Klaus had been credited by some as champion, but he never won "it" at weight and Chip could not claim it rightfully when he beat Klaus, neither could McCoy claim it for his knockout of Chip. Writers the country over had watched the work of all the men and only toward the end of the 1914 season did Clabby come in for general recognition as the best of the bunch. Then the Californian promoter, Jim Coffroth, proposed a title match for Clabby and Chip, after the latter had beaten Billy Murray, and it was arranged. Clabby won and claimed the championship for America (not the States), and Clabby was ready to defend it. Jeff Smith can honestly boast of a victory over Clabby, but it was not scored in the States, and for that reason he will have a better claim on any one else to demand a match for the title.

Packer's Wife Objects. Packer McFarland, the Chicago pride of the stonewall district, is once more thinking about a match with Mike Gibbons. (Continued on next page.)

Blinking Ben On Juarez Scrap

By H. M. WALKER, in Los Angeles Examiner.

THE very first wheeze from Jack Curley's press bureau was directed to y'r Uncle Dudley, said "Blinking Ben." "The first gentleman wants that I should say a few kind words in behalf of the threatened Johnson-Willard outbreak."

"I started in on Hank Carr but look in 'at me mean an' dangerous like he says—Smashin' y'r ole ape! Someboddy's been puttin' camel hair in y'r tobacco." I take it that Hank doesn't look with favor upon the new Juarez growth.

"Curley's an ole friend o' mine. He slipped me a kind act when I was a young fellow a pullin' a cowboy ride in Stove Brothers' ole wagon show. I'd do mos' anything for Jack but holy henlock I can't boost this heavyweight agitation. It wouldn't be human."

"I love the good ole fashioned truth better'n all else. An' if I was to try an' harrow the clods outta Jack Johnson's reputation or flatter Jess Willard by a callin' him a fighter I'd blinch with shame an' mortification."

"Willard don't know his right arm from his left leg; he's so slow that an allin' seacock could cut off a flipper an' beat him in a fifty yard race. An' Clabby makes so much noise that the throb o' distress c'n be heard in the last row o' the gallery. Aside from these minor defects Jess is a Corbett class man an' a Fitzsimmons' ex-ecution."

"Naturally Johnson has 'gone back,' but the big dander has a long way to go before he gets within whispering range o' men like Willard. He c'n plop Jess on the nose a hundred times to the round without the poor boy a bein' able to see who's throwin' the ball. A world's heavyweight championship fight, Mex. Then words bent do full justice to the affair."

"O' course there's the thousand to one chance that Johnson's knees may interfere, or his gasoline may give out, or he may step on his own neck, or something may happen to make a winner outta Willard. An' then us broad heads w' shivered up like a Fresno prune."

"In the event o' a wreck o' this kind poor ole Jess if he let it expire from the suddenness o' findin' himself a winner, w'd be in a worse fix than ver. They don't build trains or boats with speed enough to keep Jess outta reach o' Sam Langford."

"An' if Jess an' Langford are ever matched I'm goin' to the arena attired in funeral black. Johnson w'd only muss Jess up a bit, but Langford—does anyone in the house know a short prayer?"

"I admire Curley's nerve in floatin' a proposition o' this kind. He stands no mo' chance o' cashin' in a profit than he would in openin' a steamfit, tin establishment in the heart o' the Sahara Desert."

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